Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: ITC DECISION ON SUGAR IMPORTS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ

- 1. ITC APRIL 6 DETERMINED UNANIMOUSLY THAT IMPORTS OF RAW SUGAR AND SUGAR CANE WERE INTERFERING WITH U.S. DOMESTIC PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM BUT POSTPONED DECISION ON RECOMMENDATION
- 2. ITC RECOMMENDATIONS TO WHITE HOUSE WILL BE MADE APRIL 17. CHAIRMAN MINCHEW OUTLINED THREE OPTIONS FOR THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS: (A) SYSTEM OF QUOTAS, (B) IMPORT FEES, OR (C) COMBINATION OF BOTH QUOTAS AND FEES. COMMISSIONERS MOORE, BEDELL AND PARKER ALL INDICATED THAT THEY WERE CURRENTLY LEANING TOWARDS A QUOTA RECOMMENDATION BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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NEEDED MORE INFORMATION BEFORE THEIR VIEWS WERE FINAL. BEDELL STATED SHE CONCERNED ABOUT NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY IN ANY QUOTA SYSTEM BECAUSE OF CONSUMER IMPACT.

3. COMMISSIONER ALBERGER STATED HE IN FAVOR OF IMPORT FEES ON RAW SUGAR WITH A TRIGGER MECHANISM FOR QUOTAS. HE SAID IMPORT FEES TO BE IMPOSED SHOULD BE HIGHER THAN

CURRENT ONES. ALBERGER NOTED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO GIVE THE ISA A CHANCE TO STABILIZE WORLD SUGAR PRICES BEFORE A NEW RECOMMENDATION FOR QUOTAS WAS ONCE AGAIN SENT FORWARD.

- 4. CHAIRMAN MINCHEW STATED THAT WHILE HE FAVORED THE QUOTA APPROACH HE WAS INTRIGUED BY ALBERGER'S SUGGESTIONS AND MIGHT LEAN TOWARDS AN IMPORT FEE WITH A TRIGGER SINCE HE FELT THAT SUCH A RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS. DIFFERING FROM OTHERS, COMMISSIONER ABLONDI STATED HE FAVORED ESTABLISHMENT OF AUCTION QUOTA SYSTEM.
- 5. COMMISSIONERS EXPRESSED DIFFERING VIEWS ON NEED FOR ACTION RE IMPORTS OF SUGAR-CONTAINING PRODUCTS. VANCE

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